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ANNOUNCE HUNTING DATES FOR DOVES, WOODCOCK, RAILS, GALLINULES

Acting Secretary of the Interior Clarence A. Davis announced today that the hunting regulations which will be in effect during the 1955-56 season for the shooting of doves, woodcock, rails, and gallinules have been approved in their final form.

The regulations released today contain the specific dates of the hunting seasons for the States, together with bag and possession limits. As announced on July 22, the dates of September 1, 1955, to January 10, 1956, except on woodcock, were specified by the Department of the Interior as the "outside" dates within which framework the States were permitted to select the season dates most desirable to them.

Shooting hours will be as follows:

Rails and Gallinules.--The general shooting hours for these birds will be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Woodcock.--Half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Mourning or Turtle Doves.--Shooting hours in Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia will be from 12 o'clock noon until sunset. In those other States which have a dove shooting season--Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah, Washington, and West Virginia--these birds may be taken from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Shooting hours and season dates for Alabama will be prescribed at a later date.

No changes were made in the regulations for the shooting of bandtailed pigeons so those for last year will be in effect during the 1955 season.

For quick reference, the open seasons, bag and possession limits prescribed by the amended regulations are presented in tabular form in the attached schedules. However, since the State Conservation Departments are permitted to adopt regulations which may be more restrictive than the Federal regulations, persons who plan to hunt these birds should first obtain a copy of the current State regulations.

Under amendments to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act regulations recently approved by the Secretary of the Interior, the seasons, daily bag and possession limits on rails, gallinules, woodcock and mourning (turtle) doves for the year 1955 have been prescribed as shown in the following schedules:

(1) Atlantic Flyway States

	Rails and gallinules		Woodcock
	Sora	All others (singly or in aggregate)	
Daily bag limit.....	25	10	4
Possession limit.....	25	20	8
Seasons in:			
Connecticut 1/.....	Sept. 1-Oct. 15	Oct. 22-Nov. 30	
Delaware.....	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	Nov. 15-Dec. 24	
District of Columbia.....	No open season	No open season	
Florida.....	Sept. 10-Nov. 8	Nov. 23-Jan. 1	
Georgia.....	Oct. 2-Nov. 30	Dec. 12-Jan. 20	
Maine 1/.....	Oct. 1-Nov. 29	Oct. 1-Nov. 9	
Maryland.....	Sept. 1-Oct. 20	Nov. 15-Dec. 24	
Massachusetts 1/.....	Oct. 20-Dec. 18	Oct. 20-Nov. 20	
New Hampshire 1/.....	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	Oct. 1-Nov. 9	
New Jersey.....	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	Oct. 15-Nov. 23	
New York 1/.....	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	SEE FOOTNOTE 2/	
North Carolina.....	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	Nov. 24-Jan. 2	
Pennsylvania.....	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	Oct. 1-Nov. 9	
Rhode Island 1/.....	Oct. 1-Nov. 29	Nov. 1-Dec. 10	
South Carolina.....	Oct. 3-Dec. 1	Dec. 12-Jan. 20	
Vermont.....	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	Oct. 1-Nov. 9	
Virginia.....	Sept. 16-Nov. 11	Nov. 21-Dec. 30	
West Virginia.....	Oct. 15-Dec. 13	Oct. 15-Nov. 23	
Puerto Rico.....	Dec. 15-Feb. 12	No open season	

1/ Scoter, eider, and old-squaw ducks may be taken in open coastal waters only, beyond outer harbor lines, in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island from Sept. 16-Dec. 31; in Connecticut and New York from Oct. 1-Dec. 31. In areas other than those beyond outer harbor lines such birds may be taken during the open season for other ducks. In these States only, the daily bag limit is 7 scoter, eider, or old-squaw ducks singly or in the aggregate, and not exceeding 14 in possession singly or in the aggregate of all kinds.

2/ New York: The seasons for hunting woodcock are as follows: In that part of New York lying north of a line commencing at a point at the north shore of the Salmon River and its junction with Lake Ontario and extending easterly along the north shore of said river to the village of Pulaski; thence southerly along Route 11 to its intersection with Route 49 in the village of Central Square; thence easterly along Route 49 to its junction with Route 365 in the city of Rome; thence easterly along Route 365 to the village of Trenton; thence easterly along Route 28 to its junction with Route 29 in the village of Middleville; thence easterly along Route 29 to its junction with Route 4; thence northerly along Route 4 to its junction with Route 22; thence easterly along Route 22 to its junction with Route 30-b; thence easterly along Route 30-b to the New York-Vermont boundary, Oct. 8-Nov. 7; south of said line (except on Long Island and in the counties of Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester), Oct. 24-Nov. 17; on Long Island and in the counties of Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester, Oct. 31-Nov. 17. The shooting hours for hunting woodcock in each of the three areas described shall be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the first day of the respective seasons and from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on each day thereafter.

(2) Mississippi Flyway States

	Rails and gallinules		Woodcock
	Sora	All others (singly or in aggregate)	
Daily bag limit	25	15	4
Possession limit	25	15	8
Seasons in:			
Alabama	SEE FOOTNOTE 1/		SEE FOOTNOTE 1/
Arkansas	Sept. 1-Oct. 30		Dec. 1-Jan. 9
Illinois	No open season		No open season
Indiana	Sept. 1-Oct. 30		Oct. 15-Nov. 23
Iowa	No open season		No open season
Kentucky	Nov. 19-Jan. 10		Nov. 19-Dec. 28
Louisiana	Oct. 1-Nov. 29		Dec. 12-Jan. 20
Michigan	SEE FOOTNOTE 1/		SEE FOOTNOTE 2/
Minnesota	Sept. 17-Nov. 15		Oct. 1-Nov. 9
Mississippi	Oct. 15-Dec. 13		Dec. 2-Jan. 10
Missouri	Sept. 1-Oct. 30		Nov. 10-Dec. 19
Ohio	Sept. 1-Oct. 29		Oct. 1-Nov. 9
Tennessee	No open season		Nov. 24-Jan. 2
Wisconsin	SEE FOOTNOTE 1/		Oct. 1-Nov. 9

1/ The seasons for hunting rails and gallinules in Alabama, Michigan, and Wisconsin and the season for hunting woodcock in Alabama will be prescribed at a later date.

2/ Michigan: The seasons for hunting woodcock in three zones as defined by State law, orders or regulations of the Michigan Department of Conservation, are as follows: Zone 1, Oct. 1-Nov. 1; Zone 2, Oct. 1-Nov. 9; and in Zone 3, Oct. 20-Nov. 9.

(3) Central Flyway States

	Rails and gallinules		Woodcock
	Sora	All others (singly or in aggregate)	
Daily bag limit	25	15	4
Possession limit	25	15	8
Seasons in:			
Colorado	Sept. 15-Nov. 13		No open season
Kansas	Sept. 1-Oct. 30		No open season
Montana	No open season		No open season
Nebraska	No open season		No open season
New Mexico	SEE FOOTNOTE 1/		No open season
North Dakota	Oct. 1-Nov. 29		No open season
Oklahoma	Oct. 22-Dec. 20		Oct. 22-Nov. 30
South Dakota	No open season		No open season
Texas	Sept. 1-Oct. 30		Dec. 8-Jan. 16
Wyoming	No open season		No open season

1/ The season for hunting rails and gallinules in New Mexico will be prescribed at a later date.

(4) Pacific Flyway States

	Rails and gallinules	
	Sora	All others (singly or in aggregate)
Daily bag limit	25	15
Possession limit	25	15
Seasons in:		
Arizona	No open season	
California	No open season	
Idaho	No open season	
Nevada	No open season	
Oregon	No open season	
Utah	SEE FOOTNOTE 1/	
Washington	No open season	

1/ The season for hunting rails and gallinules in Utah will be prescribed at a later date.

(4a) Mourning (turtle) doves

Daily bag and possession limit	8	Daily bag and possession limit	10
Seasons in:		Seasons in:	
Alabama.....	SEE FOOTNOTE 1/	Arizona 2/.....	(Sept. 1-Sept. 30 (Dec. 17-Dec. 31
Arkansas 2/.....	Sept. 1-Oct. 15		
Connecticut.....	No open season	California.....	Sept. 3-Oct. 2
Delaware 2/.....	Sept. 30-Nov. 3	Colorado.....	Sept. 1-Oct. 15
District of Columbia...	No open season	Idaho.....	Sept. 1-Sept. 10
Florida 2/.....	(Oct. 8-Oct. 23 (Dec. 3-Dec. 31	Iowa.....	No open season
Georgia.....	(Sept. 16-Sept. 30 (Dec. 22-Jan. 10	Kansas.....	Sept. 1-Oct. 15
Indiana.....	No open season	Minnesota.....	No open season
Illinois.....	Sept. 1-Oct. 5	Missouri.....	Sept. 1-Oct. 15
Kentucky 2/.....	Sept. 1-Oct. 15	Montana.....	No open season
Louisiana 2/.....	(Sept. 16-Oct. 7 (Dec. 19-Jan. 10	Nebraska.....	No open season
Maine.....	No open season	Nevada.....	Sept. 1-Oct. 15
Maryland 2/.....	(Sept. 15-Oct. 9 (Dec. 17-Jan. 5	New Mexico.....	Sept. 1-Oct. 15
Massachusetts.....	No open season	North Dakota...	No open season
Michigan.....	No open season	Oklahoma.....	Sept. 1-Oct. 15
Mississippi 2/.....	(Sept. 12-Oct. 3 (Dec. 19-Jan. 10	Oregon.....	Sept. 1-Sept. 25
New Hampshire.....	No open season	South Dakota...	No open season
New Jersey.....	No open season	Texas 2/.....	SEE FOOTNOTE 4/
New York.....	No open season	Utah.....	Sept. 1-Sept. 15
North Carolina 2/.....	(Sept. 10-Oct. 1 (Dec. 18-Jan. 9	Washington.....	Sept. 1-Sept. 30
Ohio.....	No open season	Wyoming.....	No open season
Pennsylvania.....	Sept. 15-Oct. 19		
Rhode Island.....	No open season		
South Carolina 2/.....	(Sept. 15-Oct. 4 (Dec. 17-Jan. 10		
Tennessee 2/.....	Sept. 1-Oct. 15		
Vermont.....	No open season		
Virginia 2/.....	(Sept. 17-Oct. 1 (Oct. 14-Nov. 12		
West Virginia.....	Oct. 15-Nov. 18		
Wisconsin.....	No open season		
Puerto Rico.....	No open season		

1/ Alabama: The season for hunting mourning (turtle) doves will be prescribed at a later date.

2/ Shooting hours in States indicated, 12 o'clock noon until sunset.

3/ The white-winged dove seasons in Arizona and in Imperial and Riverside Counties in California will conform with the mourning (turtle) dove seasons in these States. In California, the daily bag and possession limit for white-winged and mourning doves is not more than 10 singly or in the aggregate of both kinds. In Arizona, the daily bag and possession limit on mourning and white-winged doves is 15 provided such limit contains not more than 10 mourning doves.

4/ Texas: Mourning doves in Val Verde, Kinney, Uvalde, Medina, Bexar, Comal, Hays, Travis, Williamson, Milam, Robertson, Leon, Houston, Cherokee, Nacogdoches, and Shelby Counties and all counties north and west thereof, Sept. 1-Oct. 15. In remainder of State, Oct. 15-Nov. 28.

As no changes in the seasons, daily bag and possession limits for band-tailed pigeons in the States of California, Oregon and Washington have been effected, the conditions governing the taking of these birds in 1955 remain as prescribed in regulations adopted by the Secretary of the Interior on July 9, 1954 (19 F. R. 4426) reading as follows:

"(4b) Band-tailed pigeons. In California, the open season on band-tailed pigeons in the counties of Del Norte, Siskiyou, Modoc, Lassen, Humboldt, Trinity, Shasta, and Tehama shall be from October 1 to October 31; in the remainder of the State, December 1 to December 31. In Oregon and Washington, the open season on band-tailed pigeons shall be from September 1 to September 30. Daily bag and possession limit, 6."

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